

THE CLERGY OF NEW YORK AND POPULAR EDUCATION

The spirit of cooperation which the church has shown toward university extension and public library work has led to sending you the inclosed historical and descriptive circulars with the hope that you will make occasion to impress the importance of the movement on the people of your community. Many pastors are convinced that wider extension of educational opportunities is of the highest advantage to the church, while they also feel that the church is in duty bound to foster and encourage work of this kind. A prominent Philadelphia clergyman recently said : " If there be any one thing more than another that the church has proclaimed on the house-tops, it is this: that rank has responsibilities, that special privileges have special duties to discharge, and that from him to whom men have given much, will they require the more ; we get only to give ; and, unless I misread it utterly, that lies in the heart of this movement to lift the university out of its sacred seclusion where luxuriously it has enjoyed its garden of pleasant fruits, and order it to carry its best systems, its best work, its best sons and daughters out to those who are thirsting on the hot fields and fainting by the dusty road-sides of crowding life. The church working for the people and with the people, working to enlighten, working to turn the world upside down that the right side may be brought and kept up, the church must and will find one of her best friends and strongest allies in this great popular, educational, and revolutionary movement."

Many pastors are willing to present the subject of university extension in a Sunday evening sermon or week day address; in other places ministerial unions or pastor's Monday meetings take the initiative in discussing the subject and rousing interest.

The clergyman's place in the community and his wide acquaintance and influence make his efforts specially likely to succeed. Teachers and school officers and the press almost invariably lend their cordial support. In many towns all is ripe for the successful establishment of a vigorous center or public library or both, and it waits only for a leading spirit to take the first public steps.

Your attention is specially called to the circular about the new library laws, from which you will see that substantial aid can be had by communities that show their real interest by trying to help themselves to the best reading for the free use of all the people. The public library movement is really only one of the most important phases of university extension in its broad sense. Neither the new system of instruction described as uni-

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versity extension, nor the public library can do its best work without the other. In some places both should be started together; in others, one leads rapidly to the other. In any case, to no one should this work appeal more strongly than to the men who are giving their lives wholly to the highest and best interests of the communities. Beside his direct duties in his own church what more honorable monument can a clergyman leave of his work in a town than a good public library and a permanent university extension center, which will go on year after year in their beneficent work and be pointed out as having been organized through his zealous efforts.

If you wish to read up the subject more thoroughly we will gladly lend you the best books. A single earnest address from a leading pulpit may result in putting in permanent operation a system which during the past 20 years has often proved itself the most powerful ally of the church. If you speak or write on the subject kindly notify us, as we wish to register the addresses of those who show practical interest in this great educational work. If you request it we will send you without charge future bulletins and other publications as issued. Address Extension Department University of the State of New York, Albany, N. Y.